

**Carlisle Conservation Commission
Minutes
October 13, 2011**

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present. Member Kelly Guarino arrived at 7:45 PM. Member Debra Kimbrell-Anderson was absent.

7:30-8:10 PM - Executive Session. Upon an individual vote of the present members of the Conservation Commission to enter and then leave an Executive Session, Ascolillo-aye, Brown-aye, and Brownrigg-aye, the commission entered Executive Session in order to discuss potential litigation

8:10-8:30 PM - New & pending business

Executive Session minutes – Bush moved to accept the July 21 Executive Session minutes. Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor, except Brown, who abstained.

Minutes - the minutes of September 8 and 22 were approved with revisions.

Certificates of Compliance (COC)

DEP 125-532 - Location: 61 Davis Rd. Project: New home & grading in the Buffer Zone, issued 10/13/98. Willard reported that the site is very stable and recommended issuing a COC. Guarino asked whether she was an abutter. After studying the plan, it was determined that Guarino was not an abutter. Bush moved to issue a COC, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

DEP 125-0772 – Location: 140 Koning Farm Rd. Project: New home & grading in the 100-foot Buffer Zone, issued 9/14/2005, extension to 9/14/2011. Willard stated that the site appeared to be very stable, and recommended issuing a COC. Guarino moved to issue a COC, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

DEP 125-0846 – Location: 309 Nowell Farm Rd. Project: Tree removal in the 100-foot Buffer Zone, issued 12/22/2008. Willard reported that the work site looked fine, and that wood chips had been removed from near the wetland. Ascolillo moved to issue a COC, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

DEP 125-0869 – Location: 304 Russell St. Project: Septic system repair, issued 9/01/2009. Willard reported that she is an abutter to the property. Since the site appeared stable, Willard recommended that a COC be issued. Brown moved to issue a COC, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

DEP 125-0900 – Location: Curve St., Parcel 39. Project: Soil testing, issued 4/15/2011. Willard and Brownrigg visited the site. Brownrigg said that there was very little disturbance except for a

few downed small trees, and Willard agreed. Brown moved to issue a COC, Bush seconded, and all voted in favor.

Cranberry Bog Coordination Committee & Chelmsford wells – Committee member Guarino said that Carlisle should begin acting on the proposal by the Chelmsford Water District to drill wells near the Chelmsford Cranberry Bog. Willard and Mark Duffy will meet with a Selectman and Town Administrator Tim Goddard regarding the issues. Willard is getting email from Chelmsford regarding the Cranberry Bog management plan. Audience member and Carlisle Mosquito reporter Sally Zielinski gave Willard her files dating from 1989 when the Cranberry Bog was under consideration for purchase and for management. Guarino will contact Chelmsford resident Tom Wilson, representing River Meadow Brook Association.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee – Willard reported that the following people have volunteered to serve on the committee: Kevin Smith, Mary Zoll, David Freedman, Lynn Knight, Liz Carpenter, and Louise Hara. All of these people have either been involved with previous OS&R plans or are on relevant subcommittees. Guarino moved to affirm the group members and provide a vote of approval to the Board of Selectmen. Bush seconded and all voted in favor.

8:30- 8:45 PM (DOA-291) Request for Determination. Applicant: Anthony Perugini. Project Location: Map 35 Parcel 27, Chestnut Conservation Land. Project Description: Construction of a public trail.

Eagle Scout candidate Anthony Perugini reported that he will construct half of a public trail on the Chestnut Conservation Land near Rutland St. The Carlisle Trails Committee will construct the remaining half of the trail. Trails Committee member Marc Lamere, present in the audience, confirmed that the Trails Committee will help with trail construction. The trail will begin at the Rangeway (an historic way), proceed to Chestnut Conservation Land, and then return to the Rangeway .. Perugini said that the trail will be approximately four feet wide. Brownrigg said that he remembered seeing a stand of large beech trees in the area during a site visit a few years ago. He asked if the trail was near the beech trees. Lamere stated that the trail would not go through the beech grove, but that the trees would be visible from the trail. Willard asked if the trail would be suitable for cross-country skiing; Perugini said that it would be. Bush asked about tree removal, and Perugini said that the trees would be 1 in. diameter or less; the cuttings would be placed at approximately a right angle to the trail to give a more natural appearance. Brownrigg asked if a boardwalk wetland crossing was part of the project. Perugini said it was not, but would probably be another Eagle Scout project later. Guarino asked about trail markers, and Lamere said that the Trails Committee will supply markers. Perugini said that younger scouts would be assigned to work farther from the wetlands, and that work in or near wetlands would be done by older scouts. The trail route would be initially marked with yellow flagging. Brown moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability based on DEP criterion B2 . Bush seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

8:45 – 8:55 PM (DOA – 290) Request for Determination. Applicant: Gary Davis, DPW Superintendent, and Carlisle Board of Selectmen. Project Location: Map 22, Parcel 7. Project Description: Culvert replacement and pathway paving.

Gary Davis was present and explained that the pathway between the Library and Carlisle Village Court will be repaved, and an existing culvert removed and replaced with a 12-inch x 14' diameter culvert to replace, in kind what is there. It will also be installed at the same elevation as the existing culvert. The wetlands near the culvert were flagged by B&C Associates, and the flagging was checked by Willard. Brownrigg asked why a wetland located west of the culvert was not flagged. Willard stated that there would be no work in this area, and that a walkway already exists. She said that the BVW exists, however, and that she felt it needed to be on the record for potential future projects. Brownrigg noted that a siltation barrier was not shown on the plan, but was in the project narrative. Willard said the barrier was accidentally omitted, but will be added prior to work. Brownrigg asked Davis the meaning of the term "chipseal", and he said that it is small diameter stone for covering the pathway, but that it will not be used for the project. Brown moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability based on DEP criterion B3. Ascolillo seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

8:55 – 9:00 PM - New & pending business, continued

Towle Field Invasive Plant Mapping – Guarino moved that discussion of this topic be added to the agenda. Bush seconded and all voted in favor. Brownrigg stated that he has finished GPS mapping of poison ivy and glossy buckthorn at Towle field. The next step will be to contact experts for advice on how to remove these invasive plants. Land Stewardship Committee and SuAsCo Cisma member Lynn Knight has agreed to help.

ConsCom Budget – Brown has been working with Willard to devise a timesheet. Willard has been using the timesheet, but she and Brown believe it needs more work. Willard said that she interacts with many other boards and committees, and this time has difficulty to account for. Guarino suggested identifying these committees on the time sheet, since the commission needs to "justify and inform" others about Willard's time. Guarino volunteered to help Brown and Willard refine the timesheet.

9:00 – 9:15 PM Notice of Intent (DEP 125-0905) Applicant: D.C. Development Group. Project Location: Lot 12, 40 Trillium Way. Project Description: Installation of a soil absorption system with a portion of the grading within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

George Dimarkarakos of Stamsky & McNary presented the plan. Guarino noted that the lot number given in the NOI differs from the plan revised November 18, 2010. Dimarkarakos explained that the original developer sold the lot to another developer and lot numbers changed. Willard suggested that the siltation barrier be moved away from the toe of the slope at the septic field in order to allow for possible movement of soil downhill. Guarino noted that the wetlands were delineated in 2003. Willard said that a permit extension was granted, and was further extended by the Permit Extension Act. There being no further questions, Guarino moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, with the following Special Conditions: (1) the siltation barrier will be moved three (3) feet further away from the toe of the slope and (2) a note will be added stating that the lot shown on the plan is not the current lot number as given in the NOI.

9:15 – 9:30 Sally Swift, Request for use of the Conservation Fund

Sally Swift and Steve Tobin of Carlisle Conservation Foundation were present. Swift requested that the commission make the decision as to whether to allow use of the Conservation Fund for activities associated with the purchase of the 9-acre parcel owned by the Elliott family.

Brownrigg said that in his opinion, this was an appropriate use of the fund, but asked whether money could be returned to the fund if the actual costs were lower. Tobin replied that the costs associated with the purchase are unlikely to change. Willard said that in the past, withdrawals from the fund, such as the Carr Land purchase, have been treated like a “bill” for any other expense and that no approvals from other departments are required. Willard said that the current balance in the fund is approximately \$140,000.

After discussion, Guarino moved that the commission appropriate \$45,000 from the Conservation Fund to carry out due diligence work and option fee for the 9-acre Mark and Rachel Paige Elliott River Preserve, with the understanding that the Town of Carlisle will hold the Conservation Restriction. Bush seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Willard said that she looks forward to the purchase moving ahead, and that this is an important joint effort between Sudbury Valley Trustees, CCF, and the town. Willard thought it might be possible to obtain \$5000 through a grant *EOEEA* which could be used to reimburse the Conservation Fund.

9:30 – 9:45 PM Lynn Knight, Pulling Together Initiative Grant Proposal

Lynn Knight was present to answer questions regarding a grant proposal for invasive plant removal at Foss Farm called the Pulling Together Initiative. Brown said that he had obtained information on a “brush hog” attachment for a bobcat that could be used for dense stands of woody invasives such as buckthorn. He found information by searching the internet using the key words “lot clearing”. There was some discussion of herbicides, and that some people in Carlisle are opposed to using pesticides and herbicides on conservation land. Guarino noted that herbicides have been used on corn crops at Foss Farm for years. Knight said that we should consider alternatives to herbicides, but in some cases there might not be a practical alternative. Knight visited Ben’s Woods with Ted Elliman of New England Wildflower Society, and he discovered porcelainberry, a highly invasive, non-native plant, growing in the field. Elliman thought that herbicide would probably be needed to eradicate porcelainberry.

Burn said that the commission should hold a public discussion of herbicide use, since there are competing conservation goals involved. Guarino mentioned the Carlisle School building project, and asked if native plants are planned for landscaping. Willard said that Steve Tobin spoke to the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee about the possible use of herbicides at Ben’s Woods. Committee members expressed a desire to be notified in writing of plans to use herbicides there, as required by the conservation restriction on the property for which the Conservation Commission is the grantee. Burn reiterated his opinion that there should be a public discussion of herbicide use on conservation land.

Knight said that the grant decision would be in January or February, and work would begin in March; the grant period is 18 months. Guarino asked the commission to support the Pulling Together Initiative grant application, and thanked Knight for her work.

Guarino asked if field edge maintenance after removal of invasive plants could be done as part of a management plan. Willard suggested that the commission think about grant opportunities for field maintenance. *(Kelly & Sylvia, I don't think I understand what you meant.)*

At 9:45 PM, Brownrigg moved to adjourn, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

Document register

1) Full Proposed Project Narrative, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant on-line application, and the budget

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.